

Legislature of New-York.

Monday, March 13.—Petitions of inhabitants of Oneida and Oswego counties, for the incorporation of a company to construct a steam-boat canal from Utica to Oswego.

The committee of the whole had under consideration the bill to improve the bank currency of this state, by rendering bank notes of uniform par value, and for other purposes. [This bill, as introduced by Mr. L. Beardsley, contained the following provisions: Every bank under the safety fund law was required to make and enter on its books, weekly statements of its general condition, stating the amounts of its general circulation, and the amount of its deposits, and to ascertain the average proportion for each quarter ending the last days of March, June, September and December. Every bank whose average quarterly circulation should exceed twice its average quarterly amount of specie on hand to be deemed guilty of a violation, and its officers and directors liable to prosecution. These provisions not to apply to any bank whose bills shall be kept current and at par in the city of New-York. All banks are prohibited from charging a greater premium on the sale of drafts on Albany or New-York than 3 per cent. and from charging discounts on their own certificates of deposit, or from insisting on paying for certificates in uncurrent funds, except when it is so expressed on the face of the certificate, and from receiving in hypothecation for any debt or loan, any of the stock of any bank of this state. Banks not subject to the safety fund law to report annually to the Bank Commissioners. The committee reported the bill with amendments, making it the duty of the banks to yield every reasonable facility to the country banks in making their drafts at par in New-York, and constituting the Bank Commissioners umpires between banks. The committee rose without taking a question.

Monday, March 14.—Petitions of inhabitants of Greene co. for a loan to the Cayuga and Catskill Rail Road Company.

Mr. Burdick, introduced a bill, to increase the duties of certain State Officers. [See report of State Comptroller, &c.]

Monday, March 15.—No business in the Assembly.

Monday, March 15.—Petitions of inhabitants of Canajoharie, for a loan from the State to the Canajoharie and Catskill Rail Road Company.

Monday, March 15.—Petitions of a select committee on that subject, reported in favor of the passage of a bill, to incorporate a canal, and the Canajoharie and Catskill Rail Road Company, and to be engrossed for a third reading.

Monday, March 17.—Mr. Edwards, from the committee on the judiciary, reported against the bill to incorporate the Canajoharie and Catskill Rail Road Company, in relation to the Canajoharie and Catskill Rail Road Company, and to be engrossed for a third reading.

Monday, March 17.—Mr. Young, from the committee on the judiciary, reported in favor of the bill to incorporate the Canajoharie and Catskill Rail Road Company, and to be engrossed for a third reading.

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ASSEMBLY.

March 13.—Petitions for a rail road from Schenectady to Coxsack; of citizens of New-York, for the removal of the seat of government to Utica.

The house concurred with the senate in their amendments to the bill authorizing the sale of certain buildings known as the jail, court-house, &c. of Montgomery co.; axes 97, coats 0.

Mr. Robinson offered a resolution, which was adopted, providing that on and after Monday, the 14th inst. the house would hold afternoon sessions, commencing at half past 3 o'clock P. M. (except on Saturdays)—to be devoted to business in charge of committees of the whole.

March 14.—Petitions: Memorial of Moses Jacques and Levi D. Slain in relation to the compensation to be paid to Legislative witnesses.

Mr. Van Tuyl, from the committee on trade and manufactures, to which was referred the petitions of Inspectors, Merchants, and Dealers in Domestic Spirits, reported that they have had and held the same under consideration for a long time, with the hope that those inspectors would make their annual Reports in obedience to the revised statutes, from which the committee might judge of the propriety of granting their prayer; but as the statute has been disregarded, the committee was only informed that the inspectors ask a specified compensation for "proving," "gauging," "staring out," "differences," "making," "starting," and "replacing bungs."

As for the matter of proving, the committee feel no great solicitude, as an adulterated article will prove less destructive to human life. The "gauging" is well enough, but as to the "outs," the more that is out the better.

The committee might not object to pay the inspectors for "starting bungs," if they did not also ask pay for "replacing" them. Under all these circumstances, the committee think the prayer of the petitioners should be denied.

Mr. S. Smith offered a resolution directing the clerk to procure copies of William's Annual Register for the use of the Members.—Lost.

Mr. Cutting called for the consideration of the resolution in favor of the election of Mayor by the people in the several cities of this State.

The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote.

March 15.—The bill to incorporate the Canajoharie and Catskill Rail Road Company, read a third time and lost: axes 82, coats 18.

Mr. Smead offered the following: Resolved, That the standing committee on banks be instructed to report a bill prohibiting every bank of the state from issuing at any time after the rising of this legislature, notes or bills of credit to a greater amount than one and a half more than its capital actually in deposit, and also prohibiting the circulation as money of all bank notes under the denomination of \$10, from and after the 1st of January, 1835, and of all bank notes under \$20, from and after the 1st of January, 1839. Laid on the table.

Mr. Watson gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill authorizing the survey of a canal route from the village of Catskill to the Erie canal west of Schenectady.

By Mr. Roosevelt, to remove all legal restraints from all persons who may desire to sell by auction.

Mr. Patterson called for the consideration of the report of the committee of the whole in favor of the bill enlarging the power of boards of Supervisors. Lost—50 to 54.

March 17.—Mr. Patterson offered a resolution directing the Inspector of Tobacco in the city of New-York, to make a more definite report, specifying the items of expenditure of the year, amounting to thirty thousand dollars, of which \$25,000 was swallowed up in expenses.

The resolution, as amended by Mr. Van Tuyl, was adopted.

Mr. Roosevelt's motion to reconsider the vote of yesterday giving the bill to enlarge the power of Boards of Supervisors was laid on the table.

March 18.—The bill concerning Common Schools and the Superintendent thereof, was read a third time and passed. Mr. Taylor moved to recommit this bill, which motion was lost by a vote of 70 to 27. Messrs. Bradish and Taylor opposed the bill on the ground that it was an indirect and illegitimate mode of increasing the salary of the Superintendent of Common Schools. Mr. Taylor said he had no objection to the bill being committed to a committee of the whole, because he thought such a section (virtually increasing a salary of \$1,750) ought not to pass, without some consideration. He would not act niggardly towards state officers—but when they performed their duty ably and faithfully, as he was happy to believe, this officer did, he should willingly allow them a liberal compensation. He had another objection to this law; it tended to perpetuate the miserable policy of rendering the minister of public instruction, (an inferior in importance to none other,) subordinate to that of Secretary of State. For a bill to separate these offices, and then apply to the Secretary of State, he would willingly vote; but for this he could not. The bill passed—80 to 31.—Mr. King in the affirmative.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

MONSTROUS SNAKE STORY.

Our readers will probably recollect that some weeks since, we gave an account of an extraordinary case in Callowhill street, in this city, of a living snake existing in the stomach of a man. When about fifteen years of age while drinking, felt a spring in a field, and that produced by a solid substance resembling down his throat. It caused no pain or uneasiness at the time, and he supposed it to be a bit of gross or some other harmless substance. A sensation in the stomach, and sometimes attended with unpleasant irritation or titillation, especially just before meals, & when he had been a long time without food. Immediately after several hours after a full meal, all unpleasant sensations subsided. These symptoms continued to increase till the thirty-fifth year of the patient, which he has recently completed: and he suffering almost constant uneasiness, and sometimes excruciating pain. His appetite was very irregular, being sometimes so small that he would not consume more than an ounce of solid food daily for a week; and at other times he was so voracious, that he would eat five pounds of beef daily for a month.

One remarkable symptom was that during these periods of abstinence, he gained flesh at the rate of ten pounds weekly, and during the periods of voracity, he lost it at a still greater degree, and was sometimes greatly emaciated. While gauging irregular under this loss of appetite, his pulse was irregular, the digestive organs were much deranged, his sleep disturbed and sometimes entirely suspended for forty-eight hours. He suffered severely from pain in the occipital region of the head, and in the shoulder blades, the thumb of the left hand, and had cadaverous paleness, and he was subjected, nightly, to profuse colligative sweats. But while losing flesh under a voracious appetite, all the functions were performed with regularity, his pulse regular, his sleep sound, and his complexion was of a healthy hue, inclined to florid. In the mean time, the stone increased greatly in size, and a motion like that of a cat in a bag, was apparent to the hand when laid upon the region of the stomach. But he was at all times subject to fainting fits of a peculiar kind. Sometimes he dropped down suddenly without sense or motion. At other times he fell, but recovered immediately, though always with a sensation of strength for some hours afterwards. The sensation, as he described it, was that of a violent blow within the stomach, and very much like that produced by an electric shock, except being more local.

Such extraordinary symptoms denoted some extraordinary cause of disturbance. He had been for ten years under the care of a distinguished physician, and had been subjected to various modes of treatment, without any abatement of these symptoms. He had taken most active emetics, and the most drastic cathartics, without any good effect. When arterial action was high, he was bled copiously, sometimes losing sixteen ounces daily for three days successively. When it was low, the most powerful stimulants were administered; opium, ether, brandy, bark, being sometimes exhibited, each in sufficient quantities to kill a man of ordinary health and strength. Although while he insisted that some live animal was in his stomach, and related the incident at the spring, and his subsequent sensations, his physician was incredulous, saying that he had read such things, but did not consider any case well authenticated, or believe that any animal could resist the solvent power of the gastric fluids in the human stomach. The patient, finding every unpleasant symptom increasing, resolved to seek additional aid, and a consultation was ordered. Five of the most eminent physicians attended, and after a minute examination, came to the conclusion that the conjecture of the patient was probable; for though neither of them had ever witnessed a case of a living animal in the human stomach, yet several cases were recorded which they considered authentic. They also said that comparative anatomy furnished analogies: for living frogs, toads, and fishes had been found in the stomachs of snakes, many hours after they had been swallowed, and that this proved the power of the vital principle in resisting to some extent, the solvent power of the gastric fluids.

Having assumed this hypothesis as probable they next proceeded to act upon it. They rejected all medicines, very properly concluding that if the vital principle could resist the solvent power of the stomach, it would resist the action of any substances which the stomach was able to bear; and concluding also that as powerful medicines had already failed, it was not philosophical to repeat them.

They ordered entire abstinence from all food; and accordingly the patient took none for five days. During this period, the pain in the stomach was excruciating, and the motion violent, resembling that of a spiral screw on a rope upon a cylinder. The patient becoming too intense to bear, for the patient was in a raving delirium, the physicians suggested that opium might act upon the nerves of the stomach, without affecting the animal, if it were one and that in search of food, it might force its way through the oesophagus. This was tried with success: the patient being thrown into a disturbed sleep, while the motion in the stomach increased in violence.—He was then held in a recumbent position with the face downward, and the body inclined to an angle of 45 degrees, the head being lowest.

In about ten minutes the cause of the difficulty was manifest. A Snake, of dark brown color, and large size, protruded full eight inches from the mouth, with its eyes fixed on the glancing with every manifestation of rage.—One of the physicians immediately seized it by the neck, with the intention of drawing it out, but suddenly fell flat on the floor, without sense or motion, as if struck by lightning! Like the conger eel, the torpedo, and several other species of marine animals, the reptile was electric, and thus were the fainting fits of the patient explained!

But measures were soon devised to meet this new difficulty. One of the physicians covered the handles of a large pair of forceps with silk; and stood ready to seize the snake, should it again appear. This soon happened, and it was seized and drawn out about two feet, struggling most violently, and emitting tremendous shocks of electricity. Two of the attending physicians, who accidentally touched it in the struggle, were knocked down. It was now found that the electric shocks would destroy the patient, and it was furthermore ascertained that, from its size, it could not be drawn out without imminent danger to the patient's oesophagus. But fertile in expedients, they suggested a new plan; which was to suffer the reptile to come out as far possible, then with a sharp instrument to sever the head, and to extract the body by an incision into the stomach.

In about an hour it again appeared; the patient all the while being insensible from the effects of opium, and perhaps by the electric shocks of the reptile. It protruded about two feet, and with a sharp hatchet, prepared for the purpose, it was suddenly divided about 18 inches from the head. The lower part suddenly disappeared within the stomach, exhibiting violent motions about two minutes. An incision was then made, and the fragment was extracted. It proved to be a conger-eel, of the electric species, 4 feet long and 3 inches in diameter.

All unpleasant symptoms have since disappeared, the wound in the stomach is healing rapidly, and the patient is recovering his strength.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

AN EXPLOSION—ALL BUT.

"Softly waft ye Southern breezes!" Before the close of the first week of the new administration, the cabinet has been nearly broken to pieces. It appears that the utmost cordiality between the members of the cabinet did not exist, previous to the close of the late iron rule; but the satraps of Tameclast stood never in greater fear from their master, than did they of their master. They were therefore bound together—not by the love they bore each other, nor by any consideration of principle, but like the staves of a highland group by the iron hoops of a common pot.

It has been the well understood intention of Mr. Van Buren to bring Mr. Rives into the cabinet as secretary of state. But in order to effect that arrangement harmoniously, Mr. Forsyth, the present secretary, must be satisfactorily provided for—nothing less than a foreign mission of course. But whether should be the present or the future, the post of first minister of state, would not, of course, accept of a minor appointment, and all the majors were occupied by those of the faithful whom it would not be safe to displace.

The plan of a new diplomatic station at the court of Austria, was therefore hit upon, and assigned to Mr. Forsyth on Thursday last. But the warm blood of the southern rose at once to fever heat. He well understood the design. Indignant that the principle of diplomatic ostracism should in the first instance be applied to himself—more especially as the banishment was to be at a third-rate station, he resolved to resign his office. Thursday addressed a cavalier note to "Mr. Van Buren President of the United States," resigning his office. He also wrote an address to the people of Georgia, which was placed in the hands of the editor of the Globe, the types set, and the proof read and corrected on Saturday.

Alarmed at a rupture in his cabinet, thus early in his executive career, measures were adopted by the president, on Friday, to prevent the explosion. The basis of this arrangement has not transpired. It is understood, however, that the resignation was withdrawn on condition that the president should address to the people of Georgia, which was cancelled. Thus stood cabinet matters on Saturday.—What the end will be remains to be seen.—Meantime the indications are, that Mr. Van Buren will be the President himself, and that the sway of the cabinet will be in the hands of a man better known how the late or former ruling executive, who governed the nation with despotic sway, was himself governed, than Mr. Van Buren, and the same appliances, we are glad to believe, will, if attempted to be exerted upon him, be exerted in vain. This is a favorable symptom, and if the President thus resigns, there is no hazard in the prediction that his first cabinet "unit" will be broken to fragments, long before the year is out.

One of the rumors from the capital is, that the President is determined to have no aspirants for the succession in his cabinet—a principle which more than one of the ministers cannot well agree to. Already there is a leading paper of "the party" in Philadelphia broke ground for Thomas H. Benton, whose nomination graces the leading column, beneath the umbrage of the hickory tree, and a series of letters in his support is in the course of publication, well understood to be written by Andrew Jackson, and the president is already in the head of a similarly raging legion, in 1829. That was a civil revolution, and as every man in office, who had not rendered respect to the chief, was to be turned out, it was an easy matter to bestow rewards by the hundred at the outset, and reserve enough to set the mouths of the opposition at naught. But not so at present. The places are all filled—and that, too, by those whom prudence, if not principle, will prevent being removed. Manifest, therefore, will be the disappointments, and many a patriot will be compelled to return home empty handed, to meditate upon the ingratitude of republics.

[From the Albany Daily Advertiser.] Attitude is every thing.—President Van Buren while reading his Inaugural Address breeches loudly concealed his hands in his breeches pocket. He was too cautious to show his hand, either in the address or elsewhere.—The Philadelphia Gazette says: "The action, though it must have given the President some trouble in turning the leaves of his pamphlet, was in strict accordance with his cautious policy and custom, not to let the left hand know what the right hand doeth.—Perhaps aware that he would be surrounded with needy office seekers, he kept a tight grasp at his purse. The practice, mayhap, might have been deemed the polite thing at the court of St. James, where it is supposed Mr. Van Buren acquired those familiar touches, which, as Teddy O'Rourke observes in the play, 'bring out the polish!'"

From the Ellenton (Md.) Courier, March 11.

ATTEMPTED OUTRAGE.—A most daring outrage was attempted at Frenchtown, in this county, on Tuesday night last, which occasioned great excitement at the time, and occurred to the perpetrator a most righteous and well merited castigation. A large number of passengers from Philadelphia being obliged to remain at Frenchtown over night, in consequence of the failure of the steambot from Baltimore, repaired to the hotel of Capt. Manly, and while engaged at supper, their attention was aroused by cries from the front part of the house. It appears that a man whose name is said to be Foley, instead of joining his fellow travellers at supper, had remained in the hall of the hotel to watch the movements of an interesting young lady who was living in the family—and whose appearance had attracted his attention. Observing her to pass up the stairs he followed her, and pressing rather closely, the young lady became alarmed, and quickening her pace retreated to the garret still closely pursued by the villain. Here by some means she eluded her pursuer and descended by a back stairway. The wretch, not being daunted, returned from the garret, and having in the mean time pulled off his boots, encountered the intense victim of his brutality in the passage a second time, when he again made an attack upon her, as if determined to accomplish his diabolical purpose. The young lady by her cries at last alarmed the passengers at supper, who instantly flew in a body to her rescue, and pursuing the villain found him in a chamber up stairs with the door closed. From the room he was immediately dragged, and some exertions brought to the bottom of the stairs, where he received a most signal drubbing at the hands of the passengers. Having effected his escape he made for the steambot wharf, where he was pursued and again severely beaten. He finally effected his escape to a boat, and fled some distance off, where he was obliged to pass the night. In the morning he desired to go on board the boat for Baltimore, but the passengers refused to admit him, declaring that if he attempted to board the boat, he should be thrown into the river.

The letters above until the arrival of the cars from Newcastle, when he was mercifully suffered to enslave himself in a wood cart sent off in the direction from whence he came. It was with much difficulty that the exasperated workmen upon the wharf and railroad, who were all much attached to the father of the young lady could be restrained from doing him further violence.

A Man of Business.—Benjamin Rathbun, the Buffalo defaulter and forger, publishes an address to the public, occupying five and a half columns in one of the large papers of this city, relative to his business, and his late termination. Amongst other matters he gives a statement of his agents, overseers, foremen, &c. from which it appears he had employed in his various operations 11 general agents; 5 superintendants; 46 foremen; 2 architects; 1 measurer of lumber; 1 tiler; 2 book keepers; 1 paymaster of Mechanics; 5 head clerks and about 40 under clerks. He was one of the superintendants. &c. he had in his employ about 2000 operatives; and he states his daily disbursements to have been not less than \$10,000. There is scarcely a branch of business of any kind, in which he was not largely engaged: besides which, he kept 4 of the largest stores in the western country—two in New-York, and two in Canada, one of groceries, provisions, hardware, &c. in each of which he had from 6 to 9 clerks.

Fall of new buildings.—Early this morning the workmen employed in the erection of a range of buildings in Fulton-street, near Broadway, known as "Ross's Buildings," discovered that the foundation of the building nearest the corner of Broadway had started; shortly afterwards another part of the foundation crumbled off, and at about 10 o'clock some of the buildings fell into the street. Fortunately no person was injured. The facts as far as we have learned them are as follow: The buildings were contracted for by Seth Geer, and the foundations laid last fall; they were left exposed the whole winter, and lately commenced. The other three buildings have been similarly constructed, it is probable that the entire fabric will have to be taken down, and the foundation laid anew.

The accident is attributed to the bad quality of the mortar—the frost having destroyed its adhesive quality.—N. Y. Express.

Banking House fallen.—A few minutes past one o'clock this morning, the gable end and front corner of Joseph's Banking House fell with a tremendous crash. We happened to be passing on the opposite side of the street at the very moment. The whole corner of Exchange and Wall streets seemed to be cut out, and in a moment the stupendous blocks of granite tumbled from their great height, and the whole came down in a heap. It was raining hard at the time, and very dark, so that we could not see, but from appearances we should judge that about half the building at least is in ruins. The concussion was so great that it started a row of stones from the top of a building in Wall street. The earth trembled as if it had been shaken by an earthquake. It is exceedingly fortunate that the accident occurred at night, when the workmen were absent and the streets deserted—had it happened in the day-time, many lives would have been sacrificed. We regret the loss of the building, particularly as the proprietors had spared neither care nor expense in the erection; it has been put up by day's work, without limit as to cost, and now more than a year has been spent in the progress thus far. We presume there must have been some misjudgement on the part of the architect, as the building is not a very old one, and we have found in any building of the kind in this city. It will no doubt be again put up as speedily as possible.—N. Y. Express

In placing upon the top of the Lyons diligence a basket which had been brought a few minutes before, and which was said to contain various articles of value, some motions were felt within the basket. On this being observed, the basket was opened, when a man was found concealed in it, who could explain his situation only by his wish to conceal his journey from his wife. He was conducted to the Police. He is a confectioner, of the name of D., and his object was to travel to the city, and to take his wife along with him 10 bottles of champagne, two cold fowls, two loaves two pounds of chocolate, and a phial of ether. He had taken care to secure an opening, in order that he might breathe.—Chert.

Eyes behind.—The editor of the Pottsville Journal announces that on Monday morning he was attacked from behind, by a cowardly ruffian, who levelled a blow at his eyes. Quite a misfortune to have one's eyes on the wrong side of the head.

Cowbirds.—A correspondent of the Richmond Compiler says that during a tremendous thunder storm last summer, a black gum tree in Chickahominy swamp, a few miles from this city, was struck by lightning, and among a flock of "cowbirds," which had taken refuge in its branches, no less than 537 were killed. This fact does not in the least confirm the doctrine that feathers are non-conductors of electric fluid.

occasion for the proposal and discussion of particular measures, which, it thinks, are more properly reserved for an annual message to Congress. We should acquiesce in the force of this remark, if Mr. Van Buren had not himself put this address before his countrymen as "an avowal of his principles;" but having done so, we are compelled to try it by the standard he has furnished. The Evening Post further says, that for aught it can see, Mr. Van Buren "has laid down general rules by which he intends to be guided, with a much particularity and distinctness as any of his predecessors." We are afraid the Evening Post, at the time of making this remark had neither the inaugural speech of Jefferson nor that of Jackson within the sphere of its vision.

But it is not so much for what it has omitted to say, now, that we feel dissatisfaction with this inaugural address. We dislike exceedingly both the tone and spirit of its remarks on the subject of slavery. On that one topic, there is, indeed, no want, but a superabundance, of "particularity and distinctness." Mr. Van Buren is the first President of the United States who in assuming that office, has held up his veto power, in terror to the world, and announced a fixed determination to exercise it on a particular subject, no matter what changes may take place in public opinion, or what events may occur to modify the question on which his imperial will is thus dictatorially announced.

Nothing but the clearest warrant of constitutional obligation could excuse this precipitate expression of a determination to exercise a power lodged in the executive, not for the purpose of holding it up to intimidate a co-ordinate branch of the government, and restrain it from the freest exercise of its functions; but for the better purpose of being discreetly used, in the last event, after a subject had undergone all the investigation and discussion that might be deemed necessary as preparatory to legislative action, unqualified by any promise or threat from the executive department of government. For Mr. Van Buren, standing on the threshold of his administration, to announce to the world that he will veto any bill which Congress may pass on a particular subject, is as gross a breach of public decorum, and as violent a stretch of his prerogatives, as it would be for the Supreme Court to pass a solemn resolution, declaring that if Congress enacted such or such a law, they would pronounce it unconstitutional, and set it aside accordingly, the moment any question under it should come before them for adjudication. The illustrious man who has just retired from the office of Chief Magistrate has thus affirmed that such a law as he declares his intention of vetoing would be a violation of any article or clause in the federal compact? Not he believes that such a course will be "in accordance with the spirit which actuated the venerated fathers of the republic," but does not pretend to such a spirit, he has written provisions of the instrument which he has sworn to maintain. If this early announcement of his intentions with regard to one subject which, if raised, is determined to exercise with the spell of the veto, is justifiable, why not carry out the new scheme of government, and give to the president, in all respects, an unequalled and arbitrary power, on which Congress must not act without the fear of the president's negative before their eyes? It might save much fruitless legislation to have the pre-determination of the executive formally made known on all questions of legislation, and the president, in such a case, might be more widely astray, since there is no other very certain mode of ascertaining what is, or is not in Mr. Van Buren's belief, according to "the spirit which actuated the venerated fathers of the republic."

When a President announces that the letter of the Constitution, shall be the guide of his public conduct; when he takes as his rule of action a strict construction of the express provisions of that instrument, we may form some tolerable notion of what will be his course. But when he undertakes to steer by the uncertain light of the spirit, we are tossed about on a sea of winds and waves. Hamilton was guided by the spirit in proposing the first federal bank; but Jefferson adhered to the letter in his argument against that evil scheme. The high tariff system claims for its paternity the spirit of the Constitution; but the advocates of a plan of equal taxation, admitted the actual wants of the government, and the letter of the Constitution. The internal improvement system, the compromise system, the distribution system, and every other unequal and aristocratic system which has been adopted in our country, all claim to spring from the spirit of the Constitution; but Andrew Jackson found in the letter of the Constitution, and in the letter of the law, and it was fondly hoped that his successor would emulate his example. Appearances now authorize a fear of the contrary. The first step is certainly a deviation from the path.

Mr. Van Buren's indecent haste to avow his pre-determinations on the subject of slavery has not even the merit of boldness. It is an attempt to reach the small party of the south, and in the certain that a majority at the north accord with his views. His sentiment on the subject of slavery, so far as it can become a question for federal legislation were well understood before. They had been distinctly expressed, and he had been supported with a clear knowledge of his opinions on that topic, and the appearance of this address would in all probability by his course, should executive action become necessary. There was not the slightest proper occasion therefore, for anything beyond a calm repetition of his previously expressed sentiment. The "Ido Plague" is the peace offering of an ignoble spirit to appease the exasperated slaveholders at the south. What a mockery it would now be, if in the course of the next four years, such a charge should take place in the public mind (and such a change is clearly within the scope of possibility) as that a large majority of the people should be of the opinion that the duty of the seat of the federal government, and Congress, in compliance with the demand, should pass a bill to that effect—what a mockery, we say, it would be, to present the measure, to the President for his approval. He would answer, "I am pledged to use my veto." But the opinions of men have changed since the address was given, and the measure is unconditional, and must be fulfilled. But the facts elicited in the discussion of the subject prove incontrovertibly that the measure is demanded by a regard for the prosperity of the country. "No matter: I am pledged."